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OFFICE OF PETITIONS
ON PETITION

In re Application of
Motoyuki Hirata et al
Application No. 09/775,619
Filed: February 5, 2001
Attorney Docket No. Q62599

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed July 2, 2003, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for the benefit of prior filed provisional Application No. 60/056,267, filed August 29, 1997.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000.

Along with the instant petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), petitioner has submitted an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title to include a reference to prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/056,267, filed August 29, 1997.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on February 5, 2001. While a reference to the prior-filed provisional application was not included in an ADS or in the first sentence of the specification following the title, reference nevertheless was made in the oath or declaration.

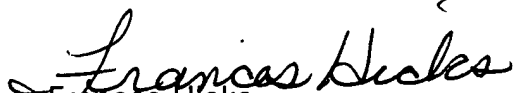
The current procedure where a claim for priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) is not included in the first sentence of the specification or in an ADS but does appear either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5). However, on the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the provisional application in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6).¹ In the instant case, the Office noted the claim for priority of provisional Application No. 60/056,267 in the oath or declaration and the transmittal letter filed with the application as shown by its inclusion on the filing receipt.

¹ Note 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.

In view of the above, the \$1,300 petition fee submitted is unnecessary and will be refunded to petitioner's deposit account in due course.

Any questions concerning this decision on petition may be directed to Karen Creasy at (703)305-8859. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 1734 for processing the amendment filed July 2, 2003.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frances Hicks".

Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy